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HISTORY OF ROBERT SR. AND ROBERT BOOTH MONTGOMERY
WRITTEN BY RUBY M. PROVOST February 12 & 13, 1978

The following history I will tell as my father would have told it.

These incidents were some of the memories of my Father, B. Montgomery, son of Robert and Mary Loury Montgomery that occurred before he left Scotland, crossing the plains and into Utah and Heber City.

We crossed the plains with Mark Jeffs, William Giles (all the Giles). Many others also. Sick and little children were in the wagons. The rest walked. There were many bad storms. I saw a dead Indian in a tree, put there by their tribe. We had to watch for them all the time as they were mean. John Turner was head master and led the group. (He is Ben Turner's Grandfather). Others with us were Calvin Henry, Jacob Baum, William Clyde of Springville (brothers of George W. Clyde, Governor of Utah, David Stevensen, Joseph Moulton, William Clegg.

My Grandfather, was born in Churchtown, London Co. Derry, Ireland, January 7, 1825, son of Robert and Agnes Sheppard Montgomery. (In Scotland all men had to join the Army or Navy for four years as they were under Englan's rule. That is why he was born in Ireland.) He had a brother Alexander (a shoemaker.) When both were grown, they went into the coal mines. They also studied mechanics, to operate a steam engine, thus becoming engineers.

At 22 years, Robert married Mary Rogers Loury on March 1, 1846. She was born April 25, 1830 at Whitelets, Toll, Ayrshire, Scotland. She was the only daughter of John and Sarah Gould Loury. She had four brothers, Alexander, John, James, and Andrew. Alexander fought in the Boar War, contracted Malaria and died. He was buried in India.

After a long time in the mines, his health grew bad and he had consumption. They begin planning to go to a better climate. At this time, the Mormon Missionaries were in Scotland. It was like a helping hand to him and his family to go to the promised land. He and his wife embraced the Gospel with heart and soul. They were baptized in 1847 then were called to preside over the Ayrshire District. There home was the quarters for the missionaries for 8 years.

He was anxious to get his family to Utah before he was called to his final home. His parents who were 75 years old hated to see them leave, but went to visit them for a while and was glad they had joined the Church. They were very proud people, always dressed well and very neat as a pin. Good memories and hope was what they needed most and his parents gave this to them.

In the Spring of 1861, he arranged to sail for America, also prepaid ways and means for his family to follow as soon as he had a place for them to come to. With a sad farewell, he left for Liverpool, England. This was the port of deportation for the Saints. While waiting for the ship to sail, he wrote this letter to his wife.

Part 1 of Grandpa Robert ¹⁸ Montgomery Sr. letter written to Grandma (his wife who was still in Scotland.)

April 23, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Mary,

Keep up your heart. The Lord sees our trials. It is a hard trial to leave all that we hold dear, and when I'm in bad health like I am. But, I trust in the Lord. Reed is here with his family, but he is not yet at the end of their journey yet.

I must close. God in Heaven bless you. Be good to wee Elizabeth. Farewell, farewell, God preserve you is the prayer of your loving husband and father. My children be obedient to your dear mother.

(Part 2, same letter)

Dearest Mary,

Were laying here in the Bay, I don't know when we will sail. We are waiting for a wind to come up so we can sail as the wind is ahead. But as soon as possible, we will go. Brother Giles, (think he meant Tom Giles) is here with his family, but is not at end of his journey yet.

I must close. God bless you, be good to Elizabeth (baby). Farewell, Farewell. God preserve a of you. My children, be obedient to your mother, is the prayer of yo g Father and Husband.

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Robert left April 22, 1861 on a clipper ship named Underwiter. It arrived in New York on May 22. There was 600 passengers and was divided into seven wards. With men appointed in charge of each ward. This way everyone was cared for. Food and cooking utensil were there to use but only one large stove. Flour, split peas, rice, potatoes, salt pork, hard tack, bread and fresh water were furnished by the Church, each ward to do their own cooking.

After reaching New York, all were marched to the Hudson River where they got in a small steamboat which took them to Albany, New York. There they waited for a train which took them to Detroit. From there to Chicago. Lots of hoodlums were shouting against Brigham Young and the Mormons going to Salt Lake.

They left Chicago for Florence, Nebraska, crossed the Mississippi River on a boat. They were very close to the firing lines between the South and North Armys. Union soldiers were guarding the bridges passed over.

They waited seven weeks for OX Teams to come on to Utah. The Church was at that time, responsible for emigrant trains to Utah. Also allocated were provisions. There were some horses, but most walked. Great care had to be taken each night as there was a great danger of Indians. Leaders of this Company was Homer Duncan and Miles Andrus.

They arrived in Zion in September, left for Heber after a rest where he stayed with friends in Heber. They were Tom Nicol, Tom Todd and James Laird, all from Scotland.

They built a two room house from logs, 32 ft. long on each room. Elisha Averett built a brick fireplace to use for cooking, as well as heating. This house was built around the south east corner from Dianne and Bill Anderson's home.

Robert was a handy carpenter and found many calls for his trade. He made furniture for Tom Ross and received a cow in payment. For other jobs he got grain and potatoes.

He did cabinet work in the old tithing office, also a large desk which was used for many years. He was good at figures and was called upon to settle the tithing office books and it was the first time they had ever been settled.

By this time, Mary (Grandma) went to visit her parents before leaving Scotland. It was a sad parting for Mary couldn't tell them she was leaving as they had said they would disown her if she joined the Church. She packed all the things she could take and her seven children who ranged from 16 to 4. She visited the grave of one child, then left home for the last time to go to a strange country.

She left Liverpool England May 14, 1862 on the ship Tapscott with 800 saints. Then on to New York to Florence Nebraska. They left Nebraska July 24, 1862 in a wagon train that had been sent for them from Salt Lake. Her children were Agnas 14, Sarah 12, Mary 10, Robert 7, Livingston 4, Elizabeth 2, Christine 1 year. The three youngest rode but the rest walked 1,000 miles. Agnes helped with all the cooking. They used the clean alkali as a soda for cooking and found it on the way. They had bad storms and winds that would blow some of there tents and wagon covers off. Beds were wet most of the time as they had to sleep on the ground.

They passed Fort Bridger, Echo Canyon, and near Silver Creek, where they were to camp. When they got there, a wagon was waiting. Mary was thrilled when she heard a Scotch voice call and ask if Mary Montgomery was there. Robert was so sick he had to send James Laird for her and the family. They went on to there log home where she found Robert pale, thin, and sick. They were so happy to see each other. Friends brought in fresh vegetables and other food. Mary had bedding, utensils and so were able to start house keeping again as a family. Winter came early and lots of snow with it; but they felt the Lord had helped them so much so with the milk cow, potatoes and a few sheep.

By late November, Robert was bed fast. The lung infection from the coal mines was increasing. The brave spirit could no longer hold out. He died January 10, 1863 at 38 years old. Mary 33 years old. Snow drifts covered fences and the road to the cemetery had to be cleaned. They made a sleigh of logs, tied the casket to the logs and was drawn by a team of oxen.

No one knew of her heart ache and the care of 7 children to feed; however, they were still glad to be in Zion.

Joseph Moulton and William Clegg dug Robert's grave. Speakers were: Robert Duke, Sr., John M. Murdock and Joseph Rasband, Sr.

Mary worked in the fields, with hand shearers she sheared sheep to get money. Agnus married John Turner, Robert Jr. and Livingston hauled wood to Salt Lake for fuel. They would take anything in turn for it. One load they got was some womens hats which Mary sold. One load of wood brought Chambers Pots which they didn't want so broke all of them on the way home. Usually they traded for what they could use in their own home. They had great fun over this.

Mary remarried to James Booth. They had one girl named Josephine. This was not a happy marriage so they separated. She remained single for a long time. When a well educated man from England by the name of John Horrocks came. They were married in 1867. They had one son John who is known as John Montgomery. He never would own the name of Horrocks and was given the name of Montgomery by the courts. Mary found out later he had a wife in England and wouldn't stay with him for she didn't believe in Polygamy. He taught school but was a mean-tempered man. He was also mean to Mary's family.

Mary was neat and very clean. She did lovely needle work. She made a lace christening dress for Agnes to have all her children blessed in. She had a very good singing voice. She worked actively in the Church, serving in the Relief Society, Sunday School and Primary, which was then called Religion Classes. She was the first lady Sunday School teacher in Heber.

My grandparents were married 22 years. His parents were 75 years old when he left Scotland. My father's grandparents were Robert M. (Don't know what the M. stands for). Great Grandfather's wife was Agnas Sheppard.

Mary's father was a farmer, sold vegetables and eggs to the market each day. Grandma use to tell us kids how bad she felt that she never heard from any of her folks since the week she and her family stayed with them just prior to coming to America. She left a letter telling them she had joined the Church and left an address to write to her, but they never did. She wrote every week until she died, but no answer.

Marvel Montgomery Hylton (my cousin) and I use to visit Grandma. She always made us clean our feet before coming in. She would give us a cookie or bread and honey. Then she'd say, "Away home with you so your folks won't worry about you." She was president of the first Primary (it used to be called Religion Classes. They were held in the old Tithing Office, (where Bob Morris has his service station on First North in Heber.

She died July 21, 1904 of a heart attack and was buried by her beloved Robert in the Heber Cemetery.

The following obituary was published in the Wasatch County Wave, July 29, 1904.
Death of Mary Rodgers Loury Montgomery, Mrs. Mary R. L. Montgomery, a notice of whose death and burial appeared in our last week issue was a native of Scotland. She was born at Ayrshire Scotland April 25, 1830. She joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1847 and emigrated to Utah in 1862. Settling in Heber where she has since resided. Her husband came in the year before to prepare a home for her and her children. She was the first lady teacher in Sunday School of this valley. She leaves a host of friends to mourn her loss.

This was written from notes I got from my Father and other papers, February 12 and 13, 1978. Ruby M. Provost